

Secures \$1.6 Million for 6th District Energy and Water Projects; Awards Pending Senate Approval

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) voted to boost job creation and provide real solutions to our energy and water quality needs with investments in new technologies, scientific research and conservation efforts. The Energy and Water Appropriations Act builds on the investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to move toward energy independence and rebuild U.S. infrastructure. In addition, the legislation includes a \$600,000 earmark for a hybrid power vehicles research project at Ohio University and \$1 million in earmarked funding for the Greenup Locks and Dam Extension Program in Scioto County.

“I’m proud to have secured \$1.6 million in funding for my district,” Wilson said. “The Hybrid Power Vehicles project at OU will help support the development of plug-in hybrid technology for the U.S. auto market. This will help create longer drive times on batteries which is good for fuel conservation and for consumers’ pockets.”

“I’ve also been a consistent proponent of making our river a better, more reliable mode of inexpensive transportation,” Wilson added. “The Greenup Locks and Dam Extension Program, by the Corps of Engineers, recognizes that the Ohio River is the main source of transportation used to get coal and other supplies to companies along the Ohio River. The extension of the existing landward auxiliary lock chamber will eliminate delays that cost millions of dollars.”

Greenup has been in service since 1959 and is the eighth busiest inland navigation lock in the United States based on tonnage.

The Energy and Water Appropriations Act invests in new technologies that will create the next generation of vehicles with improved fuel efficiency, better and cleaner engines and better batteries. It also helps modernize our electric grid by investing in “smart grid” technology that will ensure efficient and reliable delivery of electricity to American homes and businesses.

The bill increases funds for weatherization grants to help struggling families improve their homes’ energy efficiency and save hundreds of dollars annually in electricity and heating costs. It also invests in the water infrastructure needs of our communities to improve water quality and spur economic development after years of neglect.

“While we are making these excellent investments, we are also looking closely at every line of our budget to eliminate and cut programs that don’t work,” Wilson said. “This reduces our deficit spending and puts us on a path toward fiscal responsibility.”

The legislation makes significant cuts in funding for new nuclear weapons and instead shifts the focus to securing existing nuclear stockpiles.

The bill now moves to the Senate for approval.